

We claim:

84  
A57 1. A system adapted to provide data exchange or access for a user, said system comprising:

a data access device having a pointing device; and

a screen coupled to said data access device and arranged to display an image of a user familiar environment, said user familiar environment formed of a plurality of objects, each object being suggestive of a category of information, said image having image elements corresponding to said objects, said data access device being adapted to obtain information corresponding to one of said objects when said pointing device points to the image element corresponding said one object.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said image includes a display area, and wherein said data access device is adapted to show a message in said display area.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said data access device is adapted to show a message in said display area, said message identifying the information associated with a particular image element.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein one of said image elements is a moving image element.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said one image element is set into motion when

selected by said pointing device.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said one image element is adapted to show a display area for messages.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said display element becomes visible when said one image element is selected by said pointing device.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising an Internet connection and wherein said data access device is coupled to said Internet connection and is adapted to provide data exchange through said Internet connection with other locations.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein in response to a command selection, said data access device is adapted to generate commands to control remote devices.

10. A method of providing information to a user on a data access device, said method comprising:

generating an image on said data access device of a user familiar environment composed of image elements, said user familiar environment being composed of objects associated with information, each of said image elements corresponding to one of said objects to suggest to the user access to corresponding information;

selecting one of said image elements by the user;

retrieving information by said data access device;  
providing information associated with the selected one image element.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising generating messages on said screen.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising generating messages identifying the information associated with said image elements.

13. The method of claim 8 further comprising activating said one image element to generate a moving picture.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising activating said one image element with said pointing device.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising generating a message when said one image element is selected by said pointing device.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said message identifies information associated with said one image element.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein said moving image corresponds to the motion of the respective object represented by the one image element.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising generating sounds associated with the motion of the respective object.

19. The method of claim 10 further comprising generating a second image in response to the selection of said one image element.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the information corresponding to said one image element includes several categories, said second image includes a plurality of indicia corresponding to said categories.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said categories include generic categories associated with any user and user-specific categories associated with specific users.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein said information is provided when one of said indicia is selected.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein said indicia includes text descriptive of a corresponding category.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein said second image includes a display zone, the information being shown in said display zone.

25. The method of claim 10 wherein said data access device is associated with an Internet connection, further comprising access information over the Internet and downloading said information for display to the user.

26. The method of claim 10 further comprising generating commands in response to a command selection, said commands being operative to activate a remote device.

27. A user friendly Internet interface comprising:

a web browser;

a software that generates for the user an image of a friendly environment formed of objects and composed of image elements, each image element corresponding to one of said objects, said image elements being selectable by the user to obtain information; and

a data base of URL addresses and accessible to said web browser in association with the selection of one of said image elements.

28. The interface of claim 27 wherein said software is adapted to generate a second image in response to a selection of one of said image elements, said second image including a plurality of indicia, each indicia identifying a category of the information associated with said one image element.

29. The interface of claim 27 wherein each of said indicia is associated with at least

one of said URL addresses.

30. The interface of claim 27 wherein said second image includes a display zone, wherein the information is provided in said display zone.

31. The interface of claim 27 wherein said data base is stored by a remote data server.